

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 1, 4-10 and 14 have been amended herein.

The abstract was objected to for including the term “means”. The abstract has been amended herein to avoid that terminology. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants have amended the title as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement form (Form PTO-1449) filed with the Information Disclosure Statement of May 29, 2001. It is respectfully requested that that form be initialled and returned to Applicants to confirm that the documents cited thereon have been considered by the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 5-14 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, these claims will not be rewritten in independent form at this time because their respective independent claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,214,551 (Kaneda). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an apparatus having a carriage to which a head member is mounted and including a toothed belt and preventing means. The belt extends between a driving pulley and an idler pulley and the carriage is attached thereto. The preventing means is disposed at a position opposed to a back surface of the toothed belt in the vicinity of the driving pulley and is adapted to prevent idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt.

With the above arrangement, the problem of jumping of the toothed belt can be prevented in an apparatus in which it is desired to scan the carriage with high precision.

Kaneda relates to a driving device of a tape recorder. An electric motor 10 rotates a driving pulley 11 for driving a belt stretched between the driving pulley 11 and a driven pulley 15. Belt 16 drives both the driven pulley 15 and capstan 14. Driving gears 17, 18, idler gears 19, 20 and idler arm 21 are also provided along with take-up reel and feed reel shafts 12, 13 and their respective driven gears 21, 23. Idler gear 20 engages gear 23 when idler arm 21 swings counterclockwise and engages gear 22 when it swings clockwise. Further, a shaft 25 is spaced from the capstan and includes a small driven gear 26 and a partially toothed gear 27.

Applicants submit that while Kaneda may disclose a stopper for preventing the rotation of the idler arm around a capstan shaft, there is no disclosure or suggestion of preventing means disposed at a position opposed to a back surface of a toothed belt in the vicinity of a driving pulley and adapted to prevent idle rotation of the driving pulley with respect to the toothed belt, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor does Kaneda disclose a carriage attached to the belt as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Kaneda fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-14 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW\tnr

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